



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/571,058

05/23/2007

Junichi Iwama

HASE.0069

9077

38327

7590

02/04/2009

REED SMITH LLP

3110 FAIRVIEW PARK DRIVE, SUITE 1400

FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042

EXAMINER

LEE, NATHANIEL JAMES

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4126

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/04/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/571,058	Applicant(s) IWAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner NATHANIEL J. LEE	Art Unit 4126	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 May 2007 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/23/2007, 03/07/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 1(a) and 1(b), and figures 2(a) and 2(b) should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 21. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner,

Art Unit: 4126

the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Abstract

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains more than 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: extensive poor spelling and grammar, for example:

Art Unit: 4126

- a. Page 3 line 4 "lectrode" should be "electrode".
- b. Page 3 line 17 "crack" should be "cracking"
- c. Page 3 line 19 might be more legible as "difficult to achieve uniform thickness"
- d. Page 3 line 22 "unevenness" should be "uneven", "parallelism" might be better understood as "parallel orientation"
- e. Page 4 line 4 includes the phrase "put on", later the same condition is called "lighted". While the present form is comprehensible, in the interest of consistency the same terms and phrases should always be used when the same things are described.
- f. This list is by no means comprehensive of all errors, other errors will be found in a thorough reading of the specification, and should also be corrected. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 15 and 16 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 15 is identical to claim 3, both of which depend from claim 2 (claim 3 also depends from claim 1). Claim 16 is identical to claim 4, both of which depend from claim 2 (claim 4 also depends from claim 1). There is no need to claim the same thing twice.

Art Unit: 4126

7. Claim 16 objected to because of the following informalities: there is an extra square bracket in the prelude. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-9, 11, 12, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano et al. (US 6,414,434 B1) in view of Uemura et al. (US 5,341,065).

10. With respect to claim 1: Nakano et al. (US 6,414,434 B1), hereafter known as Nakano, discloses “a flat-type discharge lamp composed of a first dielectric plate (5 (Fig. 1)) integrally formed at its inner surface with a plurality of spaced dielectric ribs at the same height defined by a specified discharge distance (6 (Fig. 1)), a second dielectric plate assembled in parallel with the first dielectric plate (2 (Fig. 1)) to form a sealed space to be filled with inert gas (7 (Fig. 1)), and electrodes in the form of a thin membrane respectively deposited on the outer surfaces of the dielectric plates (X, Y and 4 (Fig. 1)), wherein the electrodes are applied with a specified voltage to cause discharge in inert gas filled in spaces among the dielectric ribs within the sealed space thereby to produce visible light on a light emitting surface formed on at least one of the electrodes (column 1 lines 6-7) characterized in that the first dielectric plate is formed at

Art Unit: 4126

its outer periphery with an outer peripheral frame having a support surface of the same height as the dielectric ribs (11 (Fig. 1)) and "...secured tightly at its bottom surface in contact with the top surface of the respective dielectric ribs" but does not disclose "the second dielectric plate is bonded by an adhesive coated in a recess formed along one side of the support surface". However, Uemura et al. (US 5,341,065), hereafter known as Uemura, discloses "the second dielectric plate is bonded by an adhesive (50 (Fig. 10a)) coated in a recess (G2 Fig (10a)) formed along one side of the support surface (1b (Fig. 10a))". It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the discharge lamp of Nakano with the sealing method of Uemura to achieve the instant invention, with the motivation given by Uemura (column 3 lines 43-55) of preventing the adhesive from flowing.

11. With respect to claim 2: Nakano discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein a space between the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame and the dielectric rib opposed thereto is determined narrower in width than each space among the other dielectric ribs (Fig's 1, 3b, 3c, 3d)".

12. With respect to claim 3: Nakano does not disclose "a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the second dielectric plate is bonded in position by means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the outer periphery of the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned in contact with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame". However, Uemura discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the second dielectric plate is bonded in position by

Art Unit: 4126

means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the outer periphery of the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned in contact with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame (Fig. 10a)". It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the discharge lamp of Nakano with the sealing method of Uemura to achieve the instant invention, with the motivation given by Uemura (column 3 lines 43-55) of preventing the adhesive from flowing.

13. With respect to claim 4: Neither Nakano nor Uemura explicitly discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the second dielectric plate is bonded in position by means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the inner periphery of the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned in contact with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame". However, the modification of forming the recess along the inner periphery of the support surface as opposed to the outer surface as disclosed by Uemura is interpreted as a design choice that does not depart from the scope of Uemura's teaching.

14. With respect to claim 5: Nakano discloses "a flat -type discharge lamp composed of a first dielectric plate (5 (Fig. 1)) integrally formed at its inner surface with a plurality of spaced dielectric ribs at the same height defined by a specified discharge distance (6 (Fig. 1)), a second dielectric plate assembled in parallel with the first dielectric plate (2 (Fig. 1)) to form a sealed space to be filled with inert gas (7 (Fig. 1)), and electrodes in the form of a thin membrane respectively deposited on the outer

Art Unit: 4126

surfaces of the dielectric plates (X, Y and 4 (Fig. 1)), wherein the electrodes are applied with a specified voltage to cause discharge in inert gas filled in spaces among the dielectric ribs within the sealed space thereby to produce visible light on a light emitting surface formed on at least one of the electrodes (column 1 lines 6-7), characterized in that the first dielectric plate is formed at its outer periphery with an outer peripheral frame having a support surface of the same height as the dielectric ribs and that the second dielectric plate is retained tightly in contact with the dielectric ribs at its bottom surface (11 (Fig. 1))” but does not disclose “and bonded to the upper surface of the outer peripheral frame by means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the outer periphery of its bottom surface in a condition where it has been positioned by engagement with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame”. However, Uemura discloses “and bonded to the upper surface of the outer peripheral frame by means of an adhesive (50 (Fig. 10a)) coated in a recess (G2 (Fig. 10a)) formed along the outer periphery of its bottom surface in a condition where it has been positioned by engagement with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame (Column 5 lines 53-57)”. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the discharge lamp of Nakano with the sealing method of Uemura to achieve the instant invention, with the motivation given by Uemura (column 3 lines 43-55) of preventing the adhesive from flowing.

15. With respect to claim 6: Nakano discloses “a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 5, wherein a space between the inner wall surface of the outer

Art Unit: 4126

peripheral frame and the dielectric rib opposed thereto is determined narrower in width than each space among the other dielectric ribs (Fig's 1, 3b, 3c, 3d)".

16. With respect to claim 7: Nakano discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp composed of a first dielectric plate (5 (Fig. 1)) integrally formed at its inner surface with a plurality of spaced dielectric ribs at the same height defined by a specified discharge distance (6 (Fig. 1)), a second dielectric plate assembled in parallel with the first dielectric plate (2 (Fig. 1)) to form a sealed space to be filled with inert gas (7 (Fig. 1)), and electrodes in the form of a thin membrane respectively deposited on the outer surfaces of the dielectric plates (X, Y, and 4 (Fig. 1)), wherein the electrodes are applied with a specified voltage to cause discharge in inert gas filled in spaces among the dielectric ribs within the sealed space thereby to produce visible light on a light emitting surface formed on at least one of the electrodes (column 1 lines 6-7), characterized in that the first dielectric plate is formed at its outer periphery with an outer peripheral frame (11 (Fig. 1))" but does not disclose "having a support surface lower in height than the dielectric ribs and that the second dielectric plate is bonded by means of an adhesive coated on the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned by engagement with the top surfaces of the dielectric ribs". However, Uemura discloses "having a support surface lower in height than the dielectric ribs and that the second dielectric plate is bonded by means of an adhesive coated on the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned by engagement with the top surfaces of the dielectric ribs

Art Unit: 4126

(Fig. 10a)". It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the discharge lamp of Nakano with the sealing method of Uemura to achieve the instant invention, with the motivation given by Uemura (column 3 lines 43-55) of preventing the adhesive from flowing.

17. With respect to claim 8: Nakano discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 7, wherein a space between the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame and the dielectric rib opposed thereto is determined narrower in width than each space among the other dielectric ribs (Fig's 1, 3b, 3c, 3d)".

18. With respect to claim 9: Nakano discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dielectric ribs (6 (Fig. 2)) are integrally formed on the inner surface of the first dielectric plate and spaced in parallel with a predetermined distance (Fig. 2), the dielectric ribs being spaced from the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame (11 (Fig. 2)) at their one ends in a longitudinal direction to form a plurality of sealed spaces in open communication to be filled with inert gas (column 1 lines 55-60)".

19. With respect to claim 11: Nakano discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp composed of a first dielectric plate (5 (Fig. 1)) integrally formed at its inner surface with a plurality of spaced dielectric ribs at the same height defined by a specified discharge distance (6 (Fig. 1)), a second dielectric plate assembled in parallel with the first dielectric plate (2 (Fig. 1)) to form a sealed space to be filled with inert gas (7 (Fig. 1)), an opaque electrode in the form of a thin membrane deposited on the outer surface of the first dielectric plate (4 (Fig. 1)), a transparent electrode in the form of a thin

Art Unit: 4126

membrane deposited on the inner surface of the second dielectric plate (X, Y (Fig. 1) and column 1 lines 18-29), wherein the electrodes are applied with a specified voltage to cause discharge in inert gas filled in spaces among the dielectric ribs within the sealed space thereby to produce visible light (column 1 lines 6-7) on a light emitting surface formed on the transparent electrode (1 (Fig. 1)), characterized in that the first dielectric plate is formed at its outer periphery with an outer peripheral frame having a support surface of the same height as the dielectric ribs (11 (Fig. 1))” and “...secured tightly at its bottom surface in contact with the top surface of the respective dielectric ribs (Fig. 1)”, but does not disclose “and that the second dielectric plate is bonded by an adhesive coated in a recess formed along one side of the support surface”. However, Uemura discloses “and that the second dielectric plate is bonded by an adhesive coated in a recess formed along one side of the support surface (Fig. 10a)”. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the discharge lamp of Nakano with the sealing method of Uemura to achieve the instant invention, with the motivation given by Uemura (column 3 lines 43-55) of preventing the adhesive from flowing.

20. With respect to claim 12: Nakano discloses “a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 11, wherein a space between the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame and the dielectric rib opposed thereto is determined narrower in width than each space among the other dielectric ribs (Fig's 1, 3b, 3c, 3d)”.

21. With respect to claim 15: Nakano does not disclose “a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second dielectric plate is bonded in position by

Art Unit: 4126

means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the outer periphery of the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned in contact with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame". However, Uemura discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second dielectric plate is bonded in position by means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the outer periphery of the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned in contact with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame (Fig. 10a)". It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the discharge lamp of Nakano with the sealing method of Uemura to achieve the instant invention, with the motivation given by Uemura (column 3 lines 43-55) of preventing the adhesive from flowing.

22. With respect to claim 16: Neither Nakano nor Uemura explicitly discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2], wherein the second dielectric plate is bonded in position by means of an adhesive coated in a recess formed along the inner periphery of the support surface of the outer peripheral frame in a condition where the bottom surface of the second dielectric plate has been positioned in contact with the support surface of the outer peripheral frame". However, the modification of forming the recess along the inner periphery of the support surface as opposed to the outer periphery of the support surface as disclosed by Uemura is interpreted as a design choice that does not depart from the scope of Uemura's teaching.

Art Unit: 4126

23. With respect to claim 17: Nakano discloses “a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 5, wherein the dielectric ribs (6 (Fig. 2)) are integrally formed on the inner surface of the first dielectric plate and spaced in parallel with a predetermined distance (Fig. 2), the dielectric ribs being spaced from the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame (11 (Fig. 2)) at their one ends in a longitudinal direction to form a plurality of sealed spaces in open communication to be filled with inert gas (column 1 lines 55-60)”.

24. With respect to claim 18: Nakano discloses “a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 7, wherein the dielectric ribs (6 (Fig. 2)) are integrally formed on the inner surface of the first dielectric plate and spaced in parallel with a predetermined distance (Fig. 2), the dielectric ribs being spaced from the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame (11 (Fig. 2)) at their one ends in a longitudinal direction to form a plurality of sealed spaces in open communication to be filled with inert gas (column 1 lines 55-60)”.

25. Claims 1, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano et al. (US 6,414,434 B1) in view of Uemura et al. (US 5,341,065); in further view of Kang et al. (US 2002/0003406 A1).

26. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected by Nakano in view of Uemura (see above).

27. With respect to claim 10: Nakano in view of Uemura does not teach “a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 9, wherein the dielectric ribs are tapered at their side surfaces opposed to each other toward the inner surface of the first dielectric

Art Unit: 4126

plate". However, Kang et al. (US 2002/0003406 A1), hereafter known as Kang, discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 9, wherein the dielectric ribs are tapered at their side surfaces opposed to each other toward the inner surface of the first dielectric plate (17 (Fig. 3))". It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the discharge lamp of Nakano in view of Uemura with the rib shape of Kang, with the motivation of using Kang's structure being that not requiring perpendicularity of the ribs allows more options when it comes to forming them, such as the sand blasting method taught by Kang (paragraph 43).

28. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano et al. (US 6,414,434 B1) in view of Uemura et al. (US 5,341,065); further in view of Feldmann et al. (US 6,666,992 B2).

29. With respect to claim 13: Nakano discloses "a flat-type discharge lamp composed of a first dielectric plate (5 (Fig. 1)) integrally formed at its inner surface with a plurality of spaced dielectric ribs at the same height defined by a specified discharge distance (6 (Fig. 1)), a second dielectric plate assembled in parallel with the first dielectric plate (2 (Fig. 1)) to form a sealed space to be filled with inert gas (7 (Fig. 1))" and "wherein the electrodes are applied with a specified voltage to cause discharge in inert gas filled in spaces among the dielectric ribs within the sealed space thereby to produce visible light on a light emitting surface formed on the electrode deposited on the outer surface of the first dielectric plate or the electrode deposited on the inner surface of the second dielectric plate (column 1 lines 6-7), characterized in that the electrode in

Art Unit: 4126

the form of the membrane deposited on the inner surface of the second dielectric plate is provided at its inner surface with a fluorescent thin membrane (8 (Fig. 1)) and that the first dielectric plate is formed at its outer periphery with an outer peripheral frame having a support surface of the same height as the dielectric ribs (11 (Fig. 1)) and “secured tightly at its bottom surface in contact with the top surface of the respective dielectric ribs” and “but does not disclose “electrodes in the form of a thin membrane respectively deposited on the outer surface of the first dielectric plate and the inner surface of the second dielectric plate” or “the second dielectric plate being bonded by an adhesive coated in a recess formed along one side of the support surface”. Uemura discloses “the second dielectric plate being bonded by an adhesive (50 (Fig. 10a)) coated in a recess (G2 (Fig. 10a)) formed along one side of the support surface 1b (Fig. 10a))”. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the discharge lamp of Nakano with the sealing method of Uemura to achieve the instant invention, with the motivation given by Uemura (column 3 lines 43-55) of preventing the adhesive from flowing.

30. Nakano in view of Uemura does not teach “electrodes in the form of a thin membrane respectively deposited on the outer surface of the first dielectric plate and the inner surface of the second dielectric plate”. However, Feldmann et al. (US 6,666,992 B2), hereafter known as Feldmann, discloses “electrodes in the form of a thin membrane respectively deposited on the outer surface of the first dielectric plate (6, 7 (Fig. 1)) and the inner surface of the second dielectric plate (11 (Fig. 1))”. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the

Art Unit: 4126

invention of Nakano in view of Uemura with the electrode placement of Feldmann with the motivation for providing an electrode on an outside surface given by Feldmann in columns 2-3 lines 66-2 of avoiding a direct contact between the two electrodes, thereby protecting them, and the motivation of providing the other electrode on an inside surface being that only one dielectric layer needs to be between the two electrodes to achieve the desired protection.

31. With respect to claim 14: Nakano discloses “a flat-type discharge lamp as claimed in claim 13, wherein a space between the inner wall surface of the outer peripheral frame and the dielectric rib opposed thereto is determined narrower in width than each space among the other dielectric ribs (Fig's 1, 3b, 3c, 3d)”.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NATHANIEL J. LEE whose telephone number is (571)270-5721. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-2424. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 4126

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. J. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 4126

/James P. Hughes/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2883